

# **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**Thursday, May 18, 2006**

**Daniel Boone City Building, 701 E. Broadway**

**Mezzanine Conference Room**

**7:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**Commission Present:** Bill Pauls, Terry Kloeppe, Julia Grus, Marin Blevins, Mike Jones

**Commission Absent:** Dennis Knudson

**Staff Present:** Mike Hood, Gary Ristow, Tammy Miller

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by Pauls.

**Agenda:** Hood told Commissioners there were three rezonings to add to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended on a motion from Kloeppe, seconded by Blevins.

**Minutes:** The April minutes were approved on a motion from Kloeppe, seconded by Grus.

**Monthly Report:** The April monthly report was approved on a motion from Grus, seconded by Blevins.

## **Rezonings – 6250 N. Oakland Gravel Road**

Developers want to annex this tract into the city, Hood said. It is located within a half-mile of the Atkins property and the Smith-Waco property. Hood said that there is a potential for increased stormwater runoff. Hood added that a goal is to eventually link the Bear Creek Trail to the Fairgrounds. It currently is not in the Parks Master Plan to extend the trail north from the Fairgrounds at this time.

Kloeppe made a motion, seconded by Blevins, that the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning, as long as adequate stormwater controls are implemented. The Commission also recommends that green space be reserved for the possibility of expanding the Bear Creek Trail.

**All in favor:** Pauls, Kloeppe, Blevins, Grus, Jones

**Motion carried.**

## **Rezoning – Waco and Brown Station Road**

Hood said that this request involves five tracts that are within a half-mile of the Smith Waco property. He recommended that stormwater controls be implemented.

Grus made a motion, seconded by Kloeppe, that the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning, as long as proper stormwater controls are implemented by the developer, as related to the Smith Waco property.

**All in favor:** Pauls, Kloeppe, Blevins, Grus, Jones

**Motion carried.**

## **Rezoning – Berrywood and Portland**

This request is within a half-mile of Woodridge Park, almost immediately north of the park. Hood said a large development is planned in the area, with buildings and parking lots. He said the plans did not offer a lot of detail at this time, but he saw no adverse effect to parks.

Blevins commented that the neighborhood has a lot of character with beautiful old trees and it would be a shame to see the trees taken down.

Kloeppe made a motion, seconded by Grus, that the Commission agreed to inform the Council that they see no potential for adverse impact to parks or trails from the proposed rezoning.

**All in favor:** Pauls, Kloeppe, Blevins, Grus, Jones

**Motion carried.**

### **Commission Budget**

Hood told Commissioners the City's FY'07 budget is now being prepared. The City Clerk handles all Commission budgets. Hood has asked the Clerk to enter a request to keep the Commission's budget the same in 2007 as it is in FY'06, which is \$4270. It is up to the Commission if they want to make any changes.

Pauls asked if it was an automatic amount and how it compares to other departments?

Hood said Parks and Recreation has one of the larger commission budgets in the city.

Kloeppel asked if the Commission has ever exceeded the budgeted amount?

Hood said no.

Commissioners agreed to leave the budget request as is for now.

### **Parks and Recreation Special Events**

Ristow shared some upcoming events with Commissioners, including the opening of pools. Oakland will be open over Memorial weekend, then will open for good on June 1. The rest of the facilities will open June 3. He said there has been a significant lifeguard shortage this year. Aquatics staff are struggling to get enough guards hired.

Pauls asked how many guards we normally hire and how they are scheduled?

Ristow said normally 175 guards are hired, because it is difficult to fill all shifts and schedules. The number of guards at a facility depends on crowd size, sight lines and response time.

Ristow added that National Trails Day would be celebrated on June 3 with a 5K Run/Walk and Trailside Nature Expo at Forum Nature Area. June will be busy with Twilight activities at Flat Branch Park on Thursdays and the Outdoor Cinema Series.

### **June Park Tour**

Hood said staff would like to hold the regularly scheduled June meeting at 5:30 at the Parks Management Center, as per tradition. A meal will be served followed by a short business meeting, then a tour of points of interest in the parks, if Commissioners agree.

Kloeppel moved to hold the June meeting at PMC, with a meal and a tour. Grus seconded the motion.

All in favor: Pauls, Kloeppel, Blevins, Grus, Jones

Motion carried.

Grus said she would like to view the Phillips property on the tour.

Jones asked about viewing the Atkins property.

Grus also mentioned the Russell property.

Pauls asked about Cosmo, particularly Rhett's Run and the Skate Park.

Ristow mentioned the ARC property and the MLK Memorial.

### **Council Items**

Hood told Commissioners that Council has approved a new leased space for the CARE Gallery on N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street. The program had outgrown its space at Rock Quarry House. Council also approved improvements to Douglass Pool, which is a project that will be funded by the park sales tax approved by voters in November. The work on the pool will begin this fall and will include the shell, plumbing, and other system work. If money is left over, it will be used on the bathhouse, Hood said.

Hood added that City Council discussed the sale of alcohol at the Art in the Park event at Stephens Lake.

Alcohol sales are not normally allowed but Council decided to allow wine sales at the event. Hood said he did not necessarily have a problem with allowing sales at Art in the Park, but was concerned with the precedent it would set. Council instructed staff to develop a policy dealing with selling alcohol in the parks. Hood said the topic would likely resurface at a Commission meeting later in the summer.

Hood informed Commissioners that the city has been approached by the Columbia Youth Basketball Association (CYBA) about developing a facility on the Ash and Clinkscales site by the ARC. He shared details of their proposal involving raising money to build the facility and turning it over to the city for daily operations. Other groups have also expressed interest in the site, including PRIDE, residents promoting a ice rink and the Farmers Market. Hood said the city would solicit proposals for 30 days.

Grus asked about the PRIDE group?

Hood said they have been looking for space and are partnering with the MU School of Engineering to raise the

\$9-\$10 million they say they need to build their facility. Hood added that they have indicated that grants would be a primary source of funds and that volunteers would be used to staff and operate the facility.

Ristow added that PRIDE is run by a board with many community connections.

Kloeppel asked what the ice supporters were planning?

Hood said some had expressed interest in developing a small arena suited to minor league hockey with ample seats. Others envision more of a recreation-based facility with figure skating, recreational hockey leagues. He is not sure exactly what sort of proposal will be presented.

Ristow said that the bottom line for the property is that it totals 19 acres and probably has space for two uses.

Criteria will need to be developed for the selection of what those uses will be.

Kloeppel asked about the status of the Farmers Market?

Hood said they are on a year-to-year lease that will expire in November 2007. A long-term lease was tentatively put into place in 2002, which was contingent on the organization raising funds to develop a permanent facility. The deadline was 2005 and no progress had been made, making the long-term lease null and void.

As a last item of Council business, Hood congratulated Kloeppel, Knudson and Grus on their reappointments to the Commission. He added that Larry Hine had resigned his at-large position, creating a vacancy on the Commission that will be advertised.

### **Capital Projects Update**

Hood shared updates as follows:

**MLK Memorial** work is wrapping up. A rededication is planned on August 28

**MKT underpass at Providence and Stewart** is ongoing with rock work and creek bank stabilization. The concrete flatwork is going out for bids now.

Pauls asked if the underpass would be similar to Stadium?

Hood answered that it would hopefully be a little better with a focus on keeping water off the trail better than at Stadium.

At **Stephens Lake Park**, new signs are being installed at the park entrances. The restroom is nearly operational.

**Paquin Park**, concrete sidewalks are being installed.

**Highpointe Park**, the shelter and basketball court are under construction.

### **Commission Comments**

Grus told Commissioners she and her family are moving out of Ward 1 and buying a new home. She said she plans to resign her position as Ward 1 representative, then reapply for the at-large position left vacant by the resignation of Larry Hine.

Blevins complimented Park Ranger Rosanna Arens on the outstanding job she does.

Jones complimented staff on the celebration held at the ARC for the millionth visitor recognition.

Kloeppel mentioned the list of interested parties in the Ash and Clinkscales site, and stated that he thought the Farmers' Market had ample opportunity over the years to establish a permanent home. He'd like for other organizations to have a chance.

Pauls echoed Blevins' comment regarding Ranger Arens and complimented Hood and Griggs for their hard work lately with several questions he has had recently.

### **Staff Comments**

Ristow told Commissioners the downtown Parks and Recreation office would be moving from the Gentry Building to the Daniel Boone Building on June 1 while the building is renovated. It is anticipated the office will relocate to Gentry by December.

Kloeppel asked about Human Resources?

Ristow said that their office would move to the Howard Building at the same time and that would be their permanent home. Volunteer Services and the Office of Cultural Affairs will move to Gentry.

### **Public Comments**

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.